

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR ETRD SCUL NS VE
SUBJ: SURINAM AND VENEZUELA SIGN FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION
AGREEMENT

REF: PARAMARIBO 0080(NOTAL)

1. AS FORECAST IN REFTEL, VENEZUELAN FOREIGN MINISTER
DR. SIMON ALBERTO CONSALVI VISITED SURINAM JANUARY 27-29
AND WHILE HERE SIGNED WITH SURINAM'S PRIME MINISTER HENCK
ARRON A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION. TREATY
ESTABLISHED A JOINT COMMISSION AS THE HIGHEST ORGAN FOR
DISCUSSING AND EVALUATING FUTURE COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY
IN ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES. WORK
GROUPS WILL ALSO BE SET UP TO PROMOTE COOPERATION IN THESE
AREAS AND TO FOSTER CULTURAL EXCHANGES, SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION, AND TOURISM, WITH SPECIAL
ATTENTION TO BE FOCUSED ON TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN
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AGRICULTURAL, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, FISHERIES, AND
FORESTRY SECTORS AND CONSTRUCTION OF RESERVOIRS AND
HYDROELECTRIC FACILITIES. NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT THE
CONCLUSION OF A CULTURAL TREATY WITH THE PURPOSE OF
BRINGING THE PEOPLES OF SURINAM AND VENEZUELA CLOSER
TOGETHER WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE.

2. PRIME MINISTER ARRON(WHO IS WLSO MINISTER FOR GENERAL AND FROEIGN AFFAIRS SAW CONSALVI'S VISIT AS PART OF SURINAM'S EFFORTS TO PROMOTE LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION WHILE CONSALVI IS QUOTED AS VIEWING THE FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION TREATY AS OPENING THE DOOR TO FRUITFUL FUTURE COOPERATION BETWEEN SURINAM AND VENEZUELA. DURING HIS V SIT, CONSALVI ALSO HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE IN WHICH HE SAID VENEZUELA AND GUYANA HAVE A GOOD UNDERSTANDING BUT THAT THERE WAS "NO SPECIAL REASON" TO HAVE A FRIENDSHIP TREATR WITH GUYANAM ON THE SUBJECT OF INDEPENDENCE FOR THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES, CONSALVI REPORTEDLY HOPED THIS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN A DEMOCRATIC MANNER AND ACCORDING TO NORMAL STANDARDS. VENEZUELA, HE SAID, WOULD NEVER INTERVENE IN THIS MATTER, BUT DOES REMAIN INTERESTED IN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS AND IS VERY OPTIMISTIC REGARDING THEM.

3. CONSALVI ALSO ADDRESSED THE QUESTION OF OIL PRICING DURING HIS PRESS CONFERENCE INDICATING THAT HE CONSIDERED AN INCREASE OF 5-8 PER CENT WAS NECESSARY. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE EXTRA INCOME COULD HAVE PAID OFF THE THIRD WORLD'S DEBT AND WOULD REDUCE THE IMBALANCE BETWEEN THE PRICES OF RAW MATERIALS AND MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS.

4. COMMENT: CONSALVI WAS WARMLY RECEIVED IN SURINAM AND HIS VISIT SHOULD BE SEEN IN LIGHT OF SURINAM'S EFFORTS
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TO INVOLVE ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH ITS TWO LARGEST SOUTH AMERICAN NEIGHBORS--VENEZUELA AND BRAZIL. RELATIONS WITH VENEZUELA HAVE THUS BEEN PUT ON A FOOTING SIMILAR TO THOSE WITH BRAZIL, SYMBOLIZED IN A COMPARABLE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION RATIFIED LAST SEPTEMBER. NONE-THELESS, CONCRETE FOLLOW-UP TO THE NEW TREATY WITH VENEZUELA WILL BE A MATTER FOR LONG-TERM DISCQSSION RATHER THAN IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION.
ZURHELLEN

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